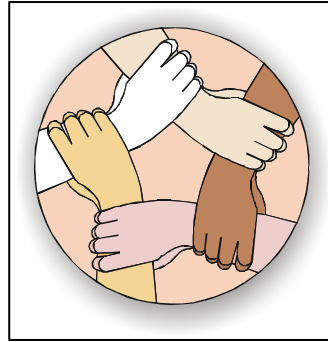


Our Council Goals

- Oversee the Federal Block Grant, including recommending the plan, amendments and reports submitted by the Mental Health Division to the Center for Mental Health Services.
- Develop and take advocacy positions concerning legislation, funding and regulations affecting mental health services through the use of mental health statistics for decision-making and planning.
- Support and advocate for quality, cost-effective and individualized consumer/family-based services through evidence-based best practice models of care. Support research and use of promising practices through continuous quality improvement.
- Promote optimal functioning for consumers of all ages. The council's focus will be education for children, supported employment for adults, and / or meaningful daily activities for older adults.
- Support education about mental illness and other mental disorders in an effort to reduce stigma.



The Council thanks the state of Washington for its commitment to a consumer and family driven public mental health system. We offer our support and assistance in system transformation.

Council Contact Information

- Joann Freimund, Chair
360-866-1575
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- Cathii Nash, Vice Chair
(509) 536-4136
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Subcommittee Chairs

Children/Youth Treatment and Services

- Position temporarily vacant

Ethnic/Cultural Minorities

- Position temporarily vacant

Legislative Subcommittee

- Cathii Nash
cathiin@netzero.com

Older Adult Treatment and Services

- Rick Crozier
rickcrozier@goodsamhealth.org

Sexual Minority Treatment and Services

- Doug Johnson - douglasj@gcbh.org

Adult Consumer Subcommittee

- Diane Eschenbacher
dianeresch@netzero.com

Washington State Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council



“Plan, Advocate and Evaluate”

The Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council is the citizen advisory council mandated by Washington and Federal Law to review Mental Health Division policies, plans, and budgets and to make recommendations and assure a strong link between government decisions and consumer needs and concerns.

Web Site:

www1.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/mhpac.shtml

Who Are We?

The Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (the “Council”) membership consists of 31 consumers, advocates and providers from around the state and members from designated governmental and regional agencies.

Our Purpose

- Advise Washington State and Federal government about its plans which affect mental health services.
- Monitor, review and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services for children, adults and older adults in Washington State.
- Advise the Washington State government about quality of mental health services for children, adults and older adults who rely on publicly-funded programs.
- Develop and adopt advocacy positions on legislation and regulations that affect publicly-funded mental health services.

What Do We Offer?

We offer a passionate consumer voice and belief in Recovery and Resiliency.

We offer collective knowledge and experience for providing support and consultation regarding mental health care policy and budget planning.

What Do We Want?

We want your assistance to improve the quality of mental health services for all persons who rely on publicly funded care in Washington State.

Current Trends That Need Attention!

In our experience, the following trends are the most troubling:

- Number of homeless and incarcerated people with mental illness is rising sharply.
- Non-Medicaid services are not available in most counties resulting in thousands of consumers being denied access to outpatient care. This leads to expensive emergency room and hospitalization services.
- Caseloads are rising sharply, compromising consumer care and recovery.
- Already inadequate care to older adults is decreasing.
- Lack of rural transportation and access to care standards are affecting mental health services in every county.

The Council’s 2006 Legislative Priorities

- Establish adequate community-based options before downsizing hospitals.
- Eliminate financial penalties levied against Regional Support Networks (RSNs) for hospitalizations.
- Support development and funding of consumer-run mental health services.
- Support efforts to establish an Office of Independent Ombuds.
- Support Legislation for adding mental health benefits to GAU.

Position Statements

Fully Fund Medicaid Services

Washington State has one of the lowest reimbursement rates for Medicaid services. These need to be increased.

Fully Fund Non-Medicaid Services

Due to federal law, Medicaid savings are no longer allowed to fund non-Medicaid services. This includes most crisis services, among others.

Increased Community-Based Services

Transfer of patients from forensic to general beds at state hospitals has decreased the number of beds available. A severe shortage of community-based beds has increased criminalization of consumers. Food stamps and housing benefits have not kept pace with the cost of living. This exacerbates the above situation. Wellness, safety and quality of life are at risk.

Eliminate the use of Federal Block Grant Dollars for State Services

The use of Federal Block Grand dollars to fund state services such as MIOA puts the funding in jeopardy.

